

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 /089 W

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R 011050Z NOV 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1258

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0174

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0509

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

OCT 27-NOV 2, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE VIENNA TALKS OBSERVED THEIR SECOND ANNIVERSARY DURING AN OTHERWISE UNEVENTFUL WEEK. THE OCT 28 INFORMAL SESSION WITH THE EAST CONCERNED FORCE DEFINITIONS. WHILE NOT BREAKING NEW GROUND, THE

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DISCUSSION DID INDICATE CONTINUED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON THE

PRINCIPLES OF COMPREHENSIVENESS AND THE DIVISION OF ALL FORCES BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE OCT 30 PLENARY MEETING. HE SURVEYED THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE EASTERN POSITION, CRITICIZED THOSE OF THE WESTERN ONE, AND ENJOINED THE WEST TO MATCH THE DEMONSTRATED READINESS OF THE EAST TO WORK IN PRACTICAL WAYS TOWARD MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT, THE OCT 28 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS CONCERNED FORCE DEFINITIONS. THE DISCUSSION, WHICH CENTERED ON THE PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE OF A POSSIBLE DEFINITION, CONFIRMED CONTINUATION OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF COMPREHENSIVENESS AND THE DIVISION OF ALL FORCES BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR. EASTERN REPS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT THE WEST AGREE NOW TO THE PRINCIPLE OF ALLOCATING SIMILAR FORCES ON EITHER SIDE TO THE SAME ARMED SERVICE, GROUND OR AIR. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV DECLINED THE WESTERN SUGGESTION TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS DEFINITIONS AT THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION IN FAVOR OF RETURNING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF MORE GENERAL TOPICS. IT IS PROBABLE THAT ALTERNATION OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN GENERAL TOPICS AND DEFINITIONS WAS THE BASIS ON WHICH MOSCOW APPROVED THE DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS AND THAT KHLESTOV IS FOR THAT REASON INSISTING ON MAINTENANCE OF THAT PATTERN.

3. THE SOVIET REP KHLESTOV MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE OCT 30 PLENARY MEETING. OBSERVING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, KHLESTOV COMMENTED THAT TWO YEARS SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO REACH AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY AS THE TALKS BENEFITED FROM AN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE OF DEEPENING DETENTE MADE ALL THE MORE FAVORABLE BY THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CSCE. HE THEN REVIEWED ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE EASTERN POSITION AND CRITICIZED THE WESTERN APPROACH ALONG STANDARD LINES. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL ON NON-INCREASE OF MANPOWER DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS CITED AMONG OTHER EASTERN MOVES AS EVIDENCE OF A CONSTRUCTIVE AND FLEXIBLE EASTERN

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ATTITUDE, KHLESTOV STRESSED THAT THIS PROPOSAL REMAINED TOPICAL. HE SAID AN EQUIVALENT WESTERN READINESS TO ENGAGE IN A PRACTICAL SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS CONFORMING TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PERMIT THE TALKS TO MAKE PROGRESS.

4. KHLESTOV'S RATHER LENGTHY REFERENCE IN THE SAME STATEMENT TO THE EASTERN NO-INCREASE PROPOSAL AND EASTERN

REFERENCES TO THIS SUBJECT IN BILATERAL TALKS PROBABLY ARE MAINLY INTENDED TO REINFORCE THE IMPRESSION OF A DYNAMIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE EASTERN POSTURE. HOWEVER, AN EASTERN MOVE TO PUT FORWARD A REVISED VERSION OF THE FREEZE, PERHAPS ONE WHICH PURPORTS TO MEET WESTERN INTEREST IN COLLECTIVE RATHER THAN NATIONAL CEILINGS, IS POSSIBLE.RESOR

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